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March 15, 2012

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The Honorable Carol Liu
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1062

Dear Senator Liu:


The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 1062, the measure you have authored that authorizes the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to appoint individuals without civil service status to vice chancellor and assistant vice chancellor positions classified as a career executive assignments, among other reforms.

The Commission supports this measure based on findings and recommendations in its report, *Serving Students, Serving California: Updating the California Community Colleges to Meet Evolving Demands* (February 2012). In this report, the Commission reviewed the California Community Colleges and found the need to strengthen the governance structure of the community college system by creating a stronger, more independent Chancellor's Office. The Commission found that the current governance structure limits the ability of the central office to lead the system, in part because the system's executive staff is comprised of gubernatorial appointments, not hired by the system Chancellor, and that the Chancellor often has to wait for appointments to be made. The Commission recommended the Chancellor's Office be established as an independent state entity; the Chancellor be empowered to hire executive staff, and the Chancellor's Office be able to establish system-wide priorities and create financial incentives for the colleges to bolster student success.

For these reasons, the Commission supports SB 1062.

As the bill moves through the committee process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you feel my presence and testimony at a hearing would be helpful, please let me know, and I will make every attempt to be available.

Sincerely,



Stuart Drown
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission